

names of the Pantry's clients and addresses. The staff tried just about everything to get the computer to turn back on, but nothing seemed to help. After much praying, the computer miraculously booted up and printed all 500 names, addresses, and emails. Upon hearing about the phenomenon, the mail station company said "No way!" Ms. White responded with, "Yes, God's way!"

Ms. White has no intentions of ending her mission work anytime soon. She has handpicked a Bible verse in Psalms Chapter 91, Verse 11, which is very dear to her heart: "For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways." In Sebring, FL, in 2002, Ms. White heard a preacher speak of a lady who was still serving the Lord at 86 years old. She thought to herself, "I still have 14 years to go!" Ms. White offers this advice to other "old folks": "When he calls, I think you need to consider his call and not your age."

The service and good works of Ms. Pauline White and Shepherd's Pantry have contributed mightily to the town of Cumberland, the surrounding region, and the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky. Ms. White is providing nourishment not just for her neighbors' bellies, but also for their spirits. Mr. President, at this time I would like to ask my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to join me in commemorating the great service of Ms. Pauline White.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### RECOGNIZING RARE DISEASE DAY

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, since 2009 the last day of February has been observed as Rare Disease Day. Each rare disease affects a small patient population—less than 200,000 people—but there are more than 7,000 rare diseases that, combined, affect 30 million Americans. Sadly, children with rare genetic diseases account for more than half of the rare disease population.

Patients with rare diseases—such as Duchenne muscular dystrophy, Tay-Sachs, epidermolysis bullosa, sickle cell anemia, cystic fibrosis, and many childhood cancers—face unique challenges. Too many of these conditions lack effective treatments and cures, and too often people with rare diseases experience challenges in obtaining an accurate diagnosis. In addition, there is often difficulty finding physicians or treatment centers with the necessary expertise in rare diseases or disorders.

Great strides have been made in research and treatment as the result of the Orphan Drug Act, but more must be done to prevent, identify, combat, and treat rare diseases. By designating February 29, 2012, as Rare Disease Day, I hope we create greater awareness of these conditions, encourage accurate and early diagnosis of rare diseases and disorders, and help demonstrate and support a national and global commitment to improve treatment options for

individuals with rare diseases and disorders.

#### READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 382.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 382) designating March 2, 2012, as "Read Across America Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 382) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 382

Whereas reading is a basic requirement for quality education and professional success, and is a source of pleasure throughout life;

Whereas the people of the United States must be able to read if the United States is to remain competitive in the global economy;

Whereas Congress has placed great emphasis on reading intervention and on providing additional resources for reading assistance, including through the programs authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) and through annual appropriations for library and literacy programs; and

Whereas more than 50 national organizations concerned about reading and education have joined with the National Education Association to designate March 2, the anniversary of the birth of Theodor Geisel (also known as Dr. Seuss), as a day to celebrate reading; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 2, 2012, as "Read Across America Day";

(2) honors Theodor Geisel, also known as Dr. Seuss, for his success in encouraging children to discover the joy of reading;

(3) honors the 15th anniversary of "Read Across America Day";

(4) encourages parents to read with their children for at least 30 minutes on "Read Across America Day" in honor of the commitment of the Senate to building a country of readers; and

(5) encourages the people of the United States to observe "Read Across America Day" with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

#### RARE DISEASE DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 383.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 383) designating February 29, 2012, as "Rare Disease Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 383) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 383

Whereas rare diseases and disorders are those diseases and disorders that affect a small patient population, which in the United States is typically a population of fewer than 200,000 people;

Whereas, as of the date of approval of this resolution, nearly 7,000 rare diseases affect 30,000,000 people and their families in the United States;

Whereas children with rare genetic diseases account for more than half of the population affected by rare diseases in the United States;

Whereas many rare diseases are life-threatening and lack an effective treatment;

Whereas rare diseases and disorders include epidermolysis bullosa, progeria, sickle cell anemia, Tay-Sachs disease, cystic fibrosis, many childhood cancers, and fibrodysplasia ossificans progressiva;

Whereas people with a rare disease experience challenges that include difficulty in obtaining an accurate diagnosis, limited treatment options, and difficulty finding a physician or treatment center with expertise in the disease;

Whereas great strides have been made in research and treatment for rare diseases as a result of the Orphan Drug Act (21 U.S.C. 360aa et seq.);

Whereas both the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health have established special offices to advocate for rare disease research and treatments;

Whereas the National Organization for Rare Disorders, an organization established in 1983 to provide services to, and advocate on behalf of, patients with rare diseases, was a primary force behind the enactment of the Orphan Drug Act and remains a critical public voice for people with rare diseases;

Whereas the National Organization for Rare Disorders sponsors Rare Disease Day in the United States to increase public awareness of rare diseases;

Whereas Rare Disease Day has become a global event that occurs annually on the last day of February;

Whereas Rare Disease Day was observed in the United States for the first time on February 28, 2009; and

Whereas Rare Disease Day is expected to be observed globally in years to come, providing hope and information for rare disease patients around the world; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 29, 2012, as "Rare Disease Day";

(2) recognizes the importance of improving awareness and encouraging accurate and early diagnosis of rare diseases and disorders; and